WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format; and

determining a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node.

2.   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

3.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

4.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

5.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the inter-operability service comprises an administrative service available to the requesting service node.

6.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein determining further comprises:

requesting the version of the destination service node from the destination service node;

receiving the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service;

determining whether the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

5   converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

updating the version of the destination service node to a most current version

10   at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown at the inter-operability service;

converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the most current version at the inter-operability service to provide the requesting service node message in the destination service node message

15   format; and

transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

7.   A method according to Claim 1 wherein the requesting service node

20   comprises an intermediate service node, the inter-operability service comprises a first inter-operability service, and the requesting service node message comprises an originating service node message, wherein transmitting a requesting service node message is preceded by:

determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown at a

25   second inter-operability service associated with the originating service node;

determining that the version of the originating service node and the version of the destination service node are known at the first inter-operability service; and

transmitting the originating service node message from the originating service node to the intermediate service node.

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8.   A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the

requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability Web service that is separate from the requesting service node in the requesting service node

5   message format; and

determining a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node.

9.   A method according to Claim 8 further comprising:

10   converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

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10.   A method according to Claim 8 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

11.   A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid

20   comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

25   receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format;

determining a version of the destination service node; and

updating the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service based on the determined version of the destination service node.

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12.   A method according to Claim 11 wherein determining a version of the destination service node comprises:

determining whether the version of the destination service node is known by the inter-operability service;

setting the version of the destination service node to a most current version to provide a present version responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown by the inter-operability service;

transmitting a command to the destination service node using the present

5   version;

modifying the present version of the destination service node to a less current version responsive to an exception on transmitting the command using the present version and transmitting the command using the less current version as the present version; and

10   updating the version of the destination service node to be the present version responsive to no exception.

13.   A method according to Claim 11 wherein determining a version of the destination service node comprises:

15   determining whether the version of the destination service node is known by the inter-operability service;

setting a present version of the destination service node to the determined version of the destination service node;

transmitting a command to the destination service node using the present

20   version;

modifying the present version of the destination service node to a more current version responsive to an exception on transmitting the command using the present version and transmitting the command using the more current version as the present version; and

25   updating the version of the destination service node to be the present version responsive to no exception.

14.   A method according to Claim 11 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination

30   service node.

15.   A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

determining that a version of a destination service node is unknown at a first inter-operability service associated with a requesting service node having a version of the requesting service node in a service grid;

determining that the version of the requesting service node and the version of the destination service node are known at a second inter-operability service associated with an intermediate service node available to the requesting service node; and

transmitting a requesting service node message from the requesting service node directed to the destination service node in a requesting service node message format associated with the version of the requesting service node via the second inter-operability service.

16.   A method according to Claim 15 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

17.   A method according to Claim 15 wherein the first and second inter-operability services comprises a web services available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

18.   A system of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

means for transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

means for receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format; and

means for determining a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node.

19.   A system according to Claim 18 further comprising:

means for converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

means for transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-5 operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

20. A system according to Claim 18 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

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21. A system according to Claim 18 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

15 22. A computer program product for communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program product comprising:

computer readable program code configured to transmit a requesting 20 service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

computer readable program code configured to receive the requesting 25 service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format; and

computer readable program code configured to determine a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node.

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23. A computer program product according to Claim 22 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to convert the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the requesting service
5   node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

24.   A computer program product according to Claim 22 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the
10   destination service node.

25.   A computer program product according to Claim 22 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.
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